



THE COUPLER

THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER
FOR DETACHMENT 1, BULK FUEL COMPANY A, 6TH ESB
(BULK FUEL DETACHMENT 1, 8TH ESB)

EDITION 1, FEBRUARY 2005



FROM THE OIC: Greetings family and friends and welcome to the first edition of "The Coupler". "The Coupler" is the title I have chosen for Detachment 1, Bulk Fuel Company A, 6th Engineer Support Battalion's Family and Friends Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you, our support network, informed and up to date on what is going on in the Detachment during our deployment and hopefully beyond.

A coupler is the apparatus that we use to connect different components of our tactical fuel systems together. Pumps, hoses, filters and nozzles all have couplers. Without couplers it would be impossible for us to complete a fuel system. It is the coupler that binds our system together. Hopefully, this newsletter will serve the same purpose and bind you our family and friends, our support and strength, closer to us.

In future additions, I plan to have members of the Detachment and our Key Volunteers add comments to the newsletter. In fact, three members of the Detachment are currently working on articles for the next edition of the newsletter.

I first want to give a little background on what we have been doing over the last six or so weeks. The Detachment is currently divided into two elements. A forward (Fwd) element which is deploying to Iraq and a remain behind element (RBE) which is located at Fort Lewis. Each element has unique and challenging missions.

The forward element consists of approximately 50 Marines and Sailors from five different home training centers. The core of the forward element is from Fort Lewis, WA. The Ft. Lewis Marines were augmented from

within Bulk Fuel Company A, by Marines from Bakersfield, CA and Tucson, AZ. The remaining Marine and Sailor joined the Detachment from Green Bay, WI and Portland, OR.

The RBE is located at Fort Lewis, WA and consists of Marines assigned to Fort Lewis who were unable to deploy, Marines returning from deployment and new join Marines.

The Fwd consolidated at Fort Lewis and then moved to Camp Lejeune, NC the middle of January. We were attached to 8th Engineer Support Battalion and re-designated Bulk Fuel Detachment 1, 8th ESB. Over the course of the last six weeks the Fwd has conducted weapons training on M16 rifles, M9 9mm pistols, machine guns of various calibers and Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP). The Fwd has also conducted training on convoy operations, bulk fuel operations, code of conduct, law of war, rules of engagement, first aid and combat lifesaving. We drew several new items from supply and spent time incorporating them into our Standard Operating Procedures.

The RBE has been busy as well. The RBE turned over the Consolidated Master Record (CMR) which is the inventory of our gear and they continue to train Marines on regular drill weekends as well as support the Fwd administratively and logistically. They are also welcoming Marines home from deployment. Last week, Corporal Nicholas returned home from Iraq after seven months with Bridge Company A.

During the middle of February, one third of the Detachment deployed to various bases in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. The balance of the Detachment will join them before the end of the month.

The Al Anbar is a vast providence that extends west from Baghdad. The Al Anbar is bordered on the south by Saudi Arabia, in the west by Jordan and in the northwest by Syria. The major cities in the providence include Fallujah, Ramadi, Hiditha and Al Qaim. The detachment's primary mission is to provide bulk fuel storage in general support of II Marine Expeditionary Force's scheme of maneuver.

As we begin our deployment, know that are thoughts and prayers are always with you and that it is from you and for you, our family and friend that we draw strength and resolve.

I encourage each of you to use the Key Volunteers (KV) and Family Readiness Officers (FRO). I have included a list below. They have my full support and have access to resources that will help all of us through the transition of the next couple of weeks. The KVs and FROs know how to contact the Detachment's staff. If you need anything from us, do not hesitate to get us a message. We cannot take action if we do not know of a situation.

I also encourage you to write to your Marine, letters and pictures are always a big moral booster even if to just say hello. The exchange system in Iraq is well established and there is no need to send excess personal items such as toilet paper, toothpaste, soap, etc.. However, care packages are always welcome. Certain items such as alcohol, pornography, explosives and firearms are prohibited. Mail is taking between 6-8 business days. I have also included our forward mailing address for you records.

Until our next issue, I wish all of you fair winds and following seas. Semper Fidelis! CWO3 Saucedo

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ADDRESS AND CONTACT LIST

Deployed Address

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Unit 73681
FPO AE 09509-3681

Fort Lewis

Detachment 1, Bulk Fuel Co. A
N&MCRTC
Bldg 9790, Box 339500
Ft Lewis, WA 98433-9500
Coml: (253) 968-7116
Fax: (253) 968-7158

Bakersfield

Detachment 2, Bulk Fuel Co. A
MCRTC
4201 Chester Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93301-1198
Coml: (661) 325-2797/2798
Fax: (661) 325-3246

Tucson

Bulk Fuel Company A
N&MCRTC
3655 S. Wilmot Rd
Tucson, AZ 85730-3529
Coml: (520) 228-6300

Portland

H&S Company
NMCRTC
6735 N Basin Ave
Portland, OR 97217-3988
Coml: (503) 286-3962/3963
Fax: (503) 286-4611

Green Bay

Detachment 1, Bulk Fuel Co. B
NMCRTC
2949 Ramada Way
Green Bay, WI 54304
Comm (920) 336-3070

Key Volunteer Co-Ordinator

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(360) 416 6996

Key Volunteer Advisor

Jaclyn McDonald
(816) 525- 5297

Family Readiness Officer

CySgt John Warren
(253) 968 7116

KV HQ Section

Mrs. Charlotte Saucedo
(425) 433-0159

KV 1st Team

Mrs. Roxanne Martinez
(425) 391-3006

KV 2nd Team

Mrs. Nicole Austin
(425) 922-6680

KV 3rd Team

Mrs. Lara Beckett
(206) 399-5323

KV 4th Team

Mrs. Thuy Pascua
(425) 917 0703

MCCS One Source Hotline

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